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UGANDA-TANZANIA: African leaders are attempting to ameliorate the dispute between Presidents Nyerere and Amin before their war of words leads to actual fighting.

The secretary-general of the OAU has requested Kenya President Jomo Kenyatta to intervene and, [redacted]

[redacted] Kenyatta is preparing to mediate the dispute. Kenyatta reportedly has no firm proposals, but will urge both presidents to negotiate. Kenyatta in 1971 successfully resolved a dispute between the two leaders that had disrupted the East African Community, but he will find the mediator's role more difficult in the charged atmosphere that now prevails.

President Siad of Somalia has dispatched his foreign minister to both capitals with a message committing Somalia to reconcile the two countries.

Neither Nyerere nor Amin has replied or publicly responded to the mediation attempts. The unpredictable Amin may well be considering some type of air or ground action against Tanzania. No further fighting has been reported on the border, but there remains a serious possibility of clashes as long as the current state of tension exists.

The level of tension in Kampala is still high. On Thursday, widespread panic among the people resulted in the virtual desertion of the center of the city. The cause of the panic is unknown, but may have been related to the arrest of Chief Justice Kiwanuka, a prominent political figure and a Baganda, who opposes President Amin. Other Baganda may have interpreted his arrest as the start of reprisals against their tribe. [redacted]

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PHILIPPINES: Government charges that Communist insurgents are behind the recent series of bombings in Manila may be designed to prepare the way for a declaration of martial law.

President Marcos alleges that the bombings are the first phase of a subversive plot by the Maoist-oriented New People's Army.

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Marcos may be trying to manufacture a sense of crisis that would enable him to declare martial law. Although Marcos for some time has been considering such a step as a contingent means for prolonging his rule, in recent months he has successfully manipulated the constitutional convention into drafting a document that could allow him to stay in power by less drastic means. Marcos has resorted to overkill in the past, however, and he may see martial law as an interim measure to strengthen his control of the nation's political process and thereby assure passage of a popular referendum on the new constitution, now expected in mid-1973.

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AUSTRIA: Vienna is altering its policy toward divided countries.

The Austrians hope to follow a diplomatic procedure used by the Swiss a year ago with respect to both Vietnams. Full diplomatic relations would be established with Hanoi, while existing relations with Saigon would be raised to the ambassadorial level. Foreign Minister Kirschlaeger, who seeks to bolster Austria's neutral stance, cited the need to keep in step with the Swiss and other Socialist governments in Western Europe as the reason for the decision.

In the past, Austrian concentration on resolving problems with East Germany has delayed initiatives on Vietnam. Vienna now is prepared to enter discussions with Pankow regarding the status of the trade missions exchanged in February 1970. The missions operate only at the chamber of commerce level, although Vienna has permitted the East German mission to issue entry and transit visas since last May. Formal discussions presumably will not begin until the inter-German negotiations are concluded, but unofficial talks could begin at any time.

Vienna has previously refused to raise the missions to the diplomatic level out of deference to Bonn's Ostpolitik and because of the friendship between Chancellors Kreisky and Brandt. A change in policy may be due in part to Vienna's desire to be on equal footing with both Germanies before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe convenes next year. The Austrians probably are also accelerating their efforts toward Pankow because they believe that Bonn will not protest too much. Vienna has noted the mildness of Bonn's objections to Finland when Helsinki moved toward relations with Pankow, and some Austrian diplomats are citing statements by prominent West German officials as evidence that Bonn would not object if Vienna were to establish a consulate general in East Berlin. At present, however, Vienna has decided to delay consideration of full diplomatic recognition until UN entry for the two Germanies is assured.

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